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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence 13 June 1956

1. Our first Detachment will be ready to begin operations from Wiesbaden on or about 15 June. In accordance with your earlier decision it is planned to start with a few missions over satellite territories.

2. These initial operations are fully covered by the already outstanding authority granted to the Air Force to conduct overflights of the satellites (and certain designated areas in the Far East). Moreover, they will fit within a specific Air Force program of sixteen overflight missions which has been approved under that general authority by the JCS, the Department of State and this Agency, (in accordance with established procedures), and with which the Commander, USAFE has been authorized to proceed. Accordingly, it would appear that no problem of additional authority arises.

3. There can be no doubt that the substitution of the initial missions planned by the Detachment for some or all of those contemplated in the Air Force program will significantly reduce the political risks involved. The use of our new equipment will permit the same intelligence to be collected in fewer missions with less chance of tracking and with virtually no chance of interception. It goes without saying that this arrangement has the full approval of the Air Force and the Theater Commander for precisely these reasons.

4. I propose to proceed as above unless you instruct me to the contrary.

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

Approved by Chief, BDACID
13/6/56

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